

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 /087 W

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R 061015Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 108

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, TS

SUBJ: TUNISIAN REACTION TO SECONDINTERIM AGREEMENT

REF: TUNIS USINFO DTG 021145Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: TUNISIANS HAVE VIEWED THE SIGNING OF SECOND INTERIM AGREEMENT CAUTIOUSLY AND WITH MIXED EMOTIONS. WITH SENIOR GOT OFFICIALS EITHER ABSENT FROM COUNTRY OR PRE-OCCUPIED WITH OTHER PROBLEMS, THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE ACCORDISSUED THUS FAR THOUGH MOST OFFICIALS ARE NO DOUBT PLEASED WITH THIS POSITIVE STEP. PRESS REACTION (AS REPORTED IN REFTEL) CLOSELY REFLECTS LONG-STANDING GOT POSITION THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY IS PRAISEWORTHY STEP ON ROAD TOWARD PEACE BUT THAT BASIC ISSUE OF PALESTINIANS

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MUST BE ADDRESSED BEFORE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS

CAN BE SOLVED. THIS EQUIVOCAL REACTION TO THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ALSO REFLECTS THE TUNISIANS' DESIRE TO REMAIN ON THE GOOD SIDE OF THE PALESTINIANS WHO HAVE COME OUT AGAINST THE AGREEMENT, AND THE ABSENCE OF STRONG MOTIVES FOR PUBLICLY APPLAUDING THE AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. GOT HAS YET TO PRONOUNCE ITS OPION PUBLICLY ON THE RECENTLY SIGNED SECOND INTERIM AGREEMENT. WITH PRIME MINISTER JUST BACK FROM EXTENDED VACATION IN FRANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTERIN NEW YORK HEADING TUNISIAN DELEGATION TO UN SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, GOT OFFICIALDOM IS ESSENTIALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER ISSUES (INCLUDING THE CELEBRATION OF THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF BOURGUIBA'S FIRST ARREST BY COLONIAL AUTHORITIES). ACTING FON MIN KOOLI EXPRESS-ED TO AMBASSADOR HIS SATISFACTION WITH USG STATEMENT THAT INTERIM AGREEMENT IS ONLY A SEPT IN PROCESS TOWARD PEACE. PARTY DIRECTOR MOHAMED SAYAH, SPEAKING ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNIVERSARY, SAID THAT BOURGUIBA'S EFFECTIVE USE OF THE POLICY OF THE CARROT AND STICK HAD LESSONS FOR THE PALESTINIANS IN THEIR STRUGGLE.

3. AS USUAL, TUNISIA'S CONTROLLED PRESS HAS BEEN A FAITHFUL REPORTER OF THE GOT'S LONG-STANDING POLICIES ON THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. WHILE GIVING HEAVY COVERAGE TO NEWS REPORTS ON THE ACCORD, THE PRESS HAS EDITORIALY COMMENTED THAT THE AGREEMENT HAS A "DISTURBING SILENCE" AND THAT "THE HARDEST REMAINS TO BE DONE." IN A SEPTEMBER 2 EDITORIAL, LA PRESSE SAID THAT WHILE EGYPT, ISRAEL, AND THE U.S. HAVE JUST CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION IN THE AGREEMENT, IT DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE ATTRACTED ARDENT DEFENDERS. ISRAEL, THE EDITORIAL WENT ON, HAS WON GREAT ADVANTAGES AND FOR THIS REASON THE AGREEMENT HAS NOT EXCITED AMMAN NOR DAMASCUS AND HAS BEEN VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED BY THE PALESTINIANS. THE AGREEMENT CAN BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE OPENED A WIDE BREACH IN THE ARAB SOLIDARITY ACHIEVED IN RABAT. IT STILL REMAINS FOR ISRAEL TO GIVE THE PALESTINIANS BACK THEIR COUNTRY AND IT IS ON THIS BASIS ONLY THAT A "DURABLE AND EQUITABLE" PEACE CAN BE ESTABLISHED IN THE REGION. IT IS IN THIS DIRECTION, LA PRESSE ENDS, THAT DR. KISSINGER'S EFFORTS SHOULD BE DEPLOYED AND THE HARDEST REMAINS TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DONE.

4. SEPTEMBER 3 L'ACTION COMMENTS EDITORIALY ON THE AGREEMENT UNDER THE HEADLINE, "A DISTURBING SILENCE." IT SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT PROVOKED DIVERSE REACTIONS, OFTEN CONTRADICTORY, BUT ALL OF THEM WERE IN ACCORD TO!KS5"<@W@ DFE*0!K2
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P#25@

D@D_KAQICE_\$JG!R@W!:

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K(G7>DH=-32)ZKN)U*?

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